

Re: Unable to delete orphaned 1.5 GB System Restore folder

Source:

http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2006-05/msg00624.html

- *From:* puzzled and frustrated <puzzledandfrustrated@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 21 May 2006 12:03:02 -0700
-

I'll see if Microsoft can come up with a solution. It'd be worth the \$35 if they can. BTW, when i said i had full control over the C: drive, it includes all subdirectories with inherited permissions. It doesn't help to try doing this in Safe Mode.

It seems clear that neither of you know the mechanism by which System Restore protects its restore files from deletion by anything other than Windoze XP Pro with the Disk Cleanup/Advanced/Save Only Most Recent Restore Point. There seems to be running process that starts up when i try to delete it or change the attributes of the S-1-5-8 top-level folder and pass it down to all children folders because i can set those permissions to All, but in a second or two, Windows always resets it to Read-Only, so Windoze is starting up a process just to reset the ownership and privileges of that S-1-5-8 and it undoes any settings i've changed to take ownership and give myself full rights to the folder and all subdirectories.

Sorry for being snappy, but i've been using computers to make a living before most of the people here were even born. Any time i need tech support, be it with my internet connection, the box, or any software, all i get for the first hour or two is people in India following a flow-chart and making me do exactly everything that i've already tried twice before even calling them. You two are the same.

I'll call M\$FT tomorrow and see if they can come up with a solution for \$35 (or maybe even free since i've never called them for support with XP and they say the first two incidents are free).

It's clear that neither of you know how System Restore protects its files. If anyone else has this same problem, i will post the solution if M\$FT can fix the problem.

Thanks for trying, but you have not helped solve the problem. I'm sure you mean well, and most of the people who post here don't know as much about this stuff as you do. I was hoping to find someone who knew how System Restore protects its files.

The one thing i haven't tried yet is to make a full backup, delete all but

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most recent restore point, and then turn off System Restore completely and reboot a few times into Safe Mode and see if i can delete it then from Safe Mode.

David

"Steven L Umbach" wrote:

Hi Malke.

Thanks for that info. That is pretty much what I thought. I tried Knoppix a couple times with a utility that was supposed to allow write and delete and did not work too well. Since I discovered Bart's PE that is what I use now. Hopefully he will figure it out. I really don't think it is that complicated of an issue. — Steve

"Malke" <notreally@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:%23iqE%23PNfGHA.4828@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Steven L Umbach wrote:

"puzzled and frustrated"
<puzzledandfrustrated@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message
news:83835395-D937-4B33-88CA-EA43EDB1DEDE@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

That advice was no help at all. I have FULL CONTROL over the entire C: drive and all subdirectories, including C:/TEMP.

You did not give any info on if you checked file permissions or not. That would be a suspected reason. By the way just because you have full control at the root folder does not mean that you have full control on all folders/files on the drive. Folders/files can have explicitly defined permissions instead of inherited permissions with the system volume information folder being a perfect example of one and by default only system has permissions to that folder. If there is one file in a folder that you do not have fullcontrol/modify permission

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then you can not delete the folder.

I don't need instruction in basic Windows file ownership and permissions. I am the OWNER of that file and have full permissions according to Windows Explorer. Using the attrib command does more than you suggested because it allows the System bit to be taken off of a file or folder. Even that doesn't help.

File attributes have absolutely nothing to do with the ability to delete a file – you are wasting your time dealing with them. If you have effective delete permissions for a file and the file is not being used by a process and the file is not corrupt nor is using an illegal name or a few other obscure reasons you should be able to delete it.

XP Pro treats the System Restore files with some type of special protection similar to the way they prevent you from deleting crucial system files. Instead of general advice on how to delete files and change ownership and permissions, I need information specific to how XP "protects" the System Restore files and how to turn that off for files no longer used by System Restore.

See if you can delete any files and or child folders. It could be just a couple files causing the problem. From the parent folder try going into the security properties/advanced and then select "replace permissions entries on all child objects". You could also try deleting

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from the command line using system by using the AT
command to schedule
the delete command in the future by a couple minutes. Or use
the AT
command to open the command window to try using delete
which also be
running as system which can be verified by Task manager.
Tasks
scheduled by the AT command run as system.

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:313565>

using the AT command

Does anyone know how to override that
"protection"? Gimme a break.
You're
telling me to run CHKDSK when i said the
orphaned file is over a year
old and
i've posted that two different versions of
Linux won't let me delete
those
files and their folders. It says "ACCESS
DENIED."

One single corrupt file could cause the failure where the
operating
system can not interpret the security descriptors. Running
Check Disk
with the option to automatically fix file system errors often
can fix
such a problem. Offhand I don't know why linux did not
work but for
any operating system you need permissions to delete files
and
root/administrator may not always have such. I like using
Bart's PE
better in such situations and it also allows me to edit the
registry
of another Windows operating system when I need to. The
link below
from Microsft may be helpful in dealing with files you can
not
delete. ---- Steve

Steve – If the OP wasn't using an unsupported tool such as Captive on
Linux , then it is completely unsurprising that he couldn't delete the

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files from within Linux. All those live cd's such as Knoppix mount the drives read-only which is A Good Thing. It is not recommended to try and write to – or delete from – a partition/drive formatted NTFS. Since the OP has extensively mentioned permissions, I think we can rule out FAT32. So the OP isn't quite as computer-savvy as he thinks he is.

As you say, there is probably a permissions issue and a Bart's PE or even ERD Commander (if the OP is rich) should take care of the problem.

Of course, the quick and dirty solution would be to back up the data and clean-install Windows. Since the OP yells at people who are trying to help him when they make a suggestion that he might not be as knowledgeable as he thinks he is, I won't bother to include my usual links to clean-install instructions.

Malke

—

MS-MVP Windows User/Shell
Elephant Boy Computers
www.elephantboycomputers.com
"Don't Panic"